

however, if the EPA does not act as arbiter to hold States accountable for pollution upstream. Therefore, I was particularly pleased to see that the agricultural community widely supports Mr. Regan's nomination.

Both the global effort to combat climate change and the regional Chesapeake Bay restoration effort are enormously challenging. Yet the prospect of confirming Michael Regan to be the Administrator of an EPA that produces policy based on Scientific evidence and robust community input has me hopeful that we can sustain a healthy, vibrant watershed and Nation for generations to come.

VOTE ON REGAN NOMINATION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the vote that was set for 5:23 begins right now.

I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Will the Senate advise and consent to the Regan nomination?

Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

The result was announced—yeas 66, nays 34, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 116 Ex.]

YEAS—66

Baldwin	Hassan	Portman
Bennet	Heinrich	Reed
Blumenthal	Hickenlooper	Romney
Booker	Hirono	Rosen
Braun	Hyde-Smith	Rounds
Brown	Kaine	Rubio
Burr	Kelly	Sanders
Cantwell	King	Schatz
Cardin	Klobuchar	Schumer
Carper	Leahy	Shaheen
Casey	Lee	Sinema
Collins	Lujan	Smith
Coons	Manchin	Stabenow
Cortez Masto	Markey	Tester
Cramer	Menendez	Tillis
Duckworth	Merkley	Van Hollen
Durbin	Murkowski	Warner
Feinstein	Murphy	Warnock
Fischer	Murray	Warren
Gillibrand	Ossoff	Whitehouse
Graham	Padilla	Wicker
Grassley	Peters	Wyden

NAYS—34

Barrasso	Hagerty	Risch
Blackburn	Hawley	Sasse
Blunt	Hoeven	Scott (FL)
Boozman	Inhofe	Scott (SC)
Capito	Johnson	Shelby
Cassidy	Kennedy	Sullivan
Cornyn	Lankford	Thune
Cotton	Lummis	Toomey
Crapo	Marshall	Tuberville
Cruz	McConnell	Young
Daines	Moran	
Ernst	Paul	

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. OSSOFF). The majority leader.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that with respect to the Regan nomination, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, first, let me explain to the public and the

Senators what we are doing here. In the bipartisan agreement we faced under a 50–50 Senate, the rules say that if there were a tie vote, the majority leader has the ability to discharge the nomination from committee and then there be a vote on the floor.

In this case, the nomination of Xavier Becerra to be Secretary of Health and Human Services, there was a tie vote in the Finance Committee. And what I will be doing in a moment is invoking that rule so that there can be 4 hours of debate on the motion, equally divided, and we will debate whether Becerra should be approved. Obviously, he only needs approval with 50 or 51 votes if the Vice President comes to break the tie.

I will say a brief word here. It is confounding to me that Mr. Becerra, Xavier Becerra, did not get some votes from the other side of the aisle. He is an eminently qualified member. He was an outstanding Member of Congress. He was a very good Attorney General, and he has led the charge to keep people's healthcare. When he was Attorney General, he was involved in the lawsuits of those who wanted to repeal the ACA. And if that is the reason our Republican colleagues are objecting—because he wants to keep and preserve the Affordable Care Act, which is very popular with the American people and very needed—I am surprised. It is yesterday's news.

I know in 2010 a lot of people came here, "Repeal ACA," but as the public got to know the ACA, they saw how good it was. And there is not much groundswell out there, except among some, the hard right, to repeal it. So I am surprised. And then we heard: Well, he is not a doctor. I would remind my colleagues that the last nominee for HHS they supported was a drug company executive. Are our Republican friends saying they would rather have a drug company executive who was not a doctor either than somebody who has been a very careful, smart attorney who has been fighting for people to get better healthcare? I am surprised.

So I hope that we may get a few of our colleagues to join us tomorrow and vote for Mr. Becerra. I don't think it will serve the country well or the Republicans well to be so adamantly opposed to him. But let me now proceed.

MOTION TO DISCHARGE

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, pursuant to S. Res. 27, the Committee on Finance, being tied on the question of reporting, I move to discharge the Senate Finance Committee from further consideration of the nomination of Xavier Becerra, of California, to be Secretary of Health and Human Services.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the provisions of S. Res. 27, there will now be up to 4 hours of debate on the motion, equally divided between the two leaders or their designees, with no motions, points of order, or amendments in order.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, for the information of all Senators, we expect a vote on the motion to discharge to occur at approximately 12 noon on Thursday, March 11, 2021.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session and be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO BRAD RICHARDSON

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, it was one decade ago that my friend Brad Richardson saw an opportunity in Hardin County. The community was ready to step on the gas pedal and start a new era of growth. It had the raw materials: a dynamic workforce, a premium location, and a strong ally in Fort Knox. All it needed was the right person to lead the way. Today, I would like to pay tribute to Brad, a visionary leader who helped realize the area's potential. At the end of this month, he will begin a well-deserved retirement with our sincere thanks.

The first step was bringing everyone together. Brad is a natural team builder. He oversaw the consolidation of four local business advocacy groups into the Hardin County Chamber of Commerce. The new organization would help attract investment to one of Kentucky's most populous counties. As the chamber's inaugural president, Brad spent the next decade doing just that.

One of Brad's first moves at the new Hardin Chamber was to restart the annual Small Business Expo. The event gives local entrepreneurs the opportunities to connect with customers and local leaders as they expand their operations. Brad also launched a Buy Local campaign to keep Hardin County's dollars in the community. In 2014, he was named the Chamber Executive of the Year by the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce Executives.

Hardin County is more than a great place to live and work. It is also the proud home to Fort Knox, one of Kentucky's premier military installations and the location of the U.S. bullion depository. The installation supports over 20,000 local jobs and makes a multibillion dollar annual economic impact. In 2016, Brad was a driving force in the establishment of the Knox Regional Development Alliance. The group is tasked with promoting the relationship between the community and our Armed Forces. For his work to encourage the partnership, Brad was given the Fort Knox Gold Neighbor Award.

I've worked closely with Brad and KRDA to invest in Fort Knox's infrastructure and capabilities. Last year,